

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 OES-07 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5426

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 4697

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, APER, LI

SUBJECT: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

REF: STATE 148782

1. WE WELCOME THE INITIATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT IN SEEKING TO STRENGTHEN THE TEAMWORK BETWEEN IT AND POSTS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. WE HAVE BENEFITED OVER THE YEARS BY THE TRADITIONALLY MODERATE APPROACH OF THE GOL IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS. A RECENT EXAMPLE WAS THE SPEECH MADE BY PRESIDENT TOLBERT AT THE OAU HEADS OF STATE CONFERENCE IN LIBREVILLE IN WHICH HE STRESSED HUMAN RIGHTS AND CALLED FOR "DIALOGUE RATHER THAN DIATRIBE". OTHER EXAMPLES INCLUDE GOL SUPPORT ON THE KOREAN AND PUERTO RICAN QUESTIONS, AND AT THE JUNE ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.

2. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE GOL WILL CONTINUE TO SHOW MODERATION IN NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES AND WILL BE A POSITIVE SUPPORT FOR US ON SUCH MATTERS AS HUMAN RIGHTS, UN BUDGET CONTROL AND UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. YET WE RECONGNIZE THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOL HAS STRONG IDEOLOGICAL AND PRACTICAL TIES TO THE U.S., IT ALSO FEELS THE PULL OF ITS AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT -- AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE THIRD WORLD GENERALLY. THERE IS AN UNDERCURRENT OF FELLING WITHIN THE GOL THAT LIBERIA HAS TO DEMONSTRATE
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ITS INDEPENDENCE AND ITS IDENTITY WITH THIRD WORLD AND AFRICAN INTERESTS BY SOMETIMES GOING ALONG WITH MAJORITY POSTIONS WHICH ARE OPPOSED BY THE U.S. THIS HAS BEEN EVIDENT IN BOTH UNESCO AND ILO MATTERS.

3. I HAVE REVIEWED THE ORGANIZATION OF THIS EMBASSY FOR HANDLING AND REPORTING ON MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS AND FIND IT

GENERALLY ADEQUATE. WE NEED TO PAY INCREASED ATTENTION TO THE DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS SINCE THEY OFTEN RECEIVE INADEQUATE BRIEFINGS FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (OR NONE AT ALL). FOR EXAMPLE, WE FOUND IT USEFUL TO MEET WITH SOME MEMBERS OF THE GOL DELEGATION TO THE CURRENT LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE BEFORE ITS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK, AND TO SHOW A USIS FILM ON LOS.

4. ONE RELATED PROBLEM WE FACE IS THE LACK OF ADEQUATE BACKGROUND MATERIAL AND EXPERTISE WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHER CONCERNED GOL AGENCIES, COMPOUNDED BY THE NECESSITY FOR A FEW WELL-QUALIFIED OFFICIALS TO COVER TOO MANY SUBJECTS. IN THIS REGARD, WE FIND HIGHLY USEFUL DETAILED EXPOSITIONS OF ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US WHICH WE CAN PASS ON TO CONCERNED OFFICIALS. WE WOULD ONLY SUGGEST THAT A SPECIAL EFFORT BE MADE TO PROVIDE US WITH ALL KINDS OF REFERENCE MATERIAL TO BE GIVEN TO CONCERNED GOL OFFICIALS. THESE COULD INCLUDE BOOKS, MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, COPIES OF SPEECHES AND FILMS. WHEN WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE THIS TYPE OF MATERIAL, RECIPIENTS HAVE INVARIABLY BEEN GRATEFUL, NOTING THE DIFFICULTY THEY HAVE IN KEEPING INFORMED. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS ALMOST NO RESEARCH LIBRARY WORTHY OF THE NAME AND ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO CORRECT THIS SITUATION IN AREAS OF SPECIFIC INTEREST TO US WILL PAY DIVIDENDS.

5. FINALLY, WE ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT DEPARTMENT'S EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS IN TIME TO MAKE ADEQUATE REPRESENTATIONS.

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CARTER

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